Dear Gunnar, 3/13/91

Your letter of 2/25, which just got here, reminds me that I've been forgetting to write you with what I hope is both encouragement and good news for the future. From the top:A dear friend of the past, a man of means, phoned to ask if I would help a son with a book on a subject of which I knew a little, involving the use of the Freedom of Information Act, with which he knew I'd had much experience. They spent a weekend with us, I was able to be of some help, and while we were chatting, when he learned I'd laid a second book on the King assassination aside because of my limited ability to use stairs to the basement where all the FOIA records I got are stored and to stand before file cabinets, he told me to get a student to assist me part-time and that he'd pay for it. (So, I'm writing again, with some problems, but I am writing.) While we were talking, because he has spent most of his life in publishing, as a lawyer and for a while as a publisher, I asked him if he thought a book on the Palme assassination would be of publisher interest. While much would depend on the book and its publisher reception, his off-the-cuff opinion is that it would or could be attractive but less likely to a major publisher here. So, when your manuscript is completed and you can translate it into English I suggest that you write him, Richard Gallen, 260 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001. He may be able to place it for you (he has dealings the nature of which I do not know with several publishers) or to get an agent for you or both. When the time comes remind him of the above when you write him. One of the small publishers with whom he has some kind of relationship, located in the same building as his office is, is Carroll & Graf. They made a success of a really terrible book on the JFK assassination. Another about whom I know nothing is Publishers West. He is, as you can see from what he volunteered to do for me and has done, a fine and thoughtful person. So thoughtful that when I offered him and the son a drink of a single-malt Scotch I described as a fine one, better than I buy for myself, the son made it a point to notice the name. A week later a case was delivered! And illegally, at that! (I'd not seen this son since he was a little boy and when I stayed with them when I was in New York I told him animal stories and farm stories once he was in bad. He is a lawyer now. A's is the other son. Both principled young men, too.)

What you say about attitudes toward the Palme assassination there is pretty much as it was here about the JFK assassination. I think you'll find that in your lifetime there will be continuing interest in it and that the amount of interest will fluctuate, sometimes related to events. For the past several years there is more interest in my books, the most recent of which is more than 15 years old, than there was even during the days of those I refer to as the House assassins, the sycophantic committee I exposed during its lifetime. Which again reminds me, when you contract your book in Sweden, I urge you to insist on a provision that requires them to give you the unsold copies. Here they are called "remainders." If you have a place to keep them, they'll sell, as mine have.

I think that you'll find that changes within Sweden as well as elsewhere in the worl will as time passes increase popular interest in Palme and in his assassination. This has happened here. Here also there were revisionists and they have failed to blemish JFK's reputation or the regard people have for him. Many of those from whom I now hear were children or not yet born when he was killed. There is a gut understanding, sometimes not perceived by those who have it, that his death marked a turning point and that the countr and the world are worse off for it. The allegations about his personal life have made no difference. Yet his own political party never mentions his name. It is not the same party now, either. So his party has had nothing to do with the love for him that is so very widespread over here now. Not only now but more now.

I think that you will find that your young people, meaning many of them, will have the kind of regard for Palme as the younger ones over here do and that they will be a market for any books on him. In addition to and separate from his assassination. On that interest will be broader, I'm sure, and will include principled members of parties that disagreed with what he stood for.

I'm sorry you did not get the scholarship but I hope that you do find it possible to get here. On scholarships, have you inquired whether any are available on this side? I do not know how you can but it is not impossible that there are some designed to promote or facilitate scholarly exchanges. Thanks for your good wishes, with out best regard; and good luck! Harold Weisberg

Harold